

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-05

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FOL RPT ROME 17739 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BUENOS AIRES 4 DEC.

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: XV, AR, IT

SUBJ: PLANNED ITALIAN EXPEDITION TO ANTARTICA

REF: STATE 285072

1. FOLLOWING TELEX MESSAGE RECEIVED BY OFFICE OF THE NAVAL ATTACHE ON DECEMBER 4 (EMBASSY TRANSLATION FROM ITALIAN TEXT).

2. QUOTE. TO THE ATTENTION OF THE US NAVAL ATTACHE, WITH KIND REQUEST THAT THE AMBASSADOR ALSO FAVOURABLY CONSIDERS THE MATTER.

AS YOU HAVE BEEN INFORMED, ARGENTINA VETOED THE FIRST ITALIAN EXPEDITION TO THE ANTARCTIC, WHICH WAS TO TRAVEL ABOARD A SHIP FLYING AN ARGENTINE FLAG AND HAD SCIENTIFIC AND MOUNTAIN CLIMBING PURPOSES. THE REFUSAL IS DEFINITE. WE HAVE INFORMED THE TWELVE COUNTRIES WHICH ADHERE TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANTARCTIC TREATY WHO EXPRESSED THEIR SOLIDARITY AND

INDICATED THAT THERE IS NO LEGAL REASON TO BLOCK OUR
EXPEDITION.

WE INFORM YOU THAT 22 TONS OF EQUIPMENT ARE ALREADY IN
MONTEVIDEO WHERE THE ARGENTINE SHIP IS WAITING TO
LOAD. THE 15 MEMBERS OF THE EXPEDITION, SCIENTISTS
AND MOUNTAIN CLIMBERS, ARE READY TO LEAVE ON AN ALITALIA
FLIGHT TO MONTEVIDEO TO EMBARK ON THE ARGENTINE
SHIP WHICH WAS CHARTERED FOR THIS PURPOSE. DESTINATION
OF THE EXPEDITION IS THE ANTARCTIC PENINSULA. BECAUSE
OF THE ARGENTINE REFUSAL, AND SINCE THE EXPEDITION IS
READY TO GO, WE HAVE THE POSSIBILITY OF CHARTERING A
NORWEGIAN SHIP. PLEASE INFORM US IF YOU HAVE ANY
OBJECTION TO OUR INDICATING THAT WE ARE HEADING FOR
YOUR PALMER BASE.

WE ASSURE YOU THAT WE ARE COMPLETELY SELF-SUFFICIENT
AND WILL CAUSE YOU NO TROUBLE AT ALL

WE COUNT ON YOUR UNDERSTANDING IN ACCORDANCE WITH
THE TERMS OF ANTARCTIC TREATY THAT ITALY IS ABOUT TO
SIGN.

SHOULD IT BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU, PLEASE LET US KNOW IF
YOU CAN ENTREAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TO COMPLY WITH
THE TERMS OF THE TREATY. THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE
THROUGH THE APPROPRIATE US ORGANIZATION IN WASHINGTON.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION AND I WILL LOOK FORWARD
TO HEARING FROM YOU.

RENATO CEPPARO
CHIEF OF THE EXPEDITION
VIA BISSOLATI 22 - MILANO

UNQUOTE

3. ADVISE.VOLPE

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